



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Nebraska American Legion Names Their 2022 Teachers-of-the-Year

(Lincoln) July 8, 2022 – Each year the Nebraska American Legion selects outstanding teachers who promote Americanism, and patriotism and support the veterans and active-duty military in their communities.

Elementary School Teacher-of-the-Year – Cindy Backemeyer

Cindy Backemeyer, or Mrs. B as she's better known, has been teaching for 26 years, spending 23 years at Elmwood-Murdock Public School. Backemeyer supports her community by using the local resources in the area such as the Elmwood Grand Army of the Republic Hall, the local cemetery, and the Bess Streeter Aldrich home. She may be known for her contribution to the Veteran's Day programs and these programs are enjoyed by the children, parents, and people of the community. Backemeyer will go the extra mile to make sure her students are learning each day while making sure each student feels seen and heard. She makes sure every child can enjoy their daily freedoms in this country by celebrating the contributions made by the people in the community during the past and present.

Middle School Teacher-of-the-Year – Colleen O'Shaughnessy

Colleen O'Shaughnessy is a Multimedia teacher at Adams Middle School, with over 20 years of teaching experience. O'Shaughnessy has taught at the college level in multiple states and just completed 5 years of teaching in Nebraska. Over the years she taught classes in accounting, Law, Math, and computer applications at different education levels. During this time, she completed her National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification (only 2-6 percent of teachers have done this nationwide). She still supports her community wherever she goes whether it's helping Habitat for Humanity or the Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, she always remembers her family members who have served this country.

High School Teacher-of-the-Year – Kristi Robison

Kristi Robison is a vocal music teacher at Pawnee City Schools, with 25 years of experience. Robison has always been active with The American Legion and has found ways to involve the children at school and members of Troop 322. Both of her sons were members of Troop 322 so she saw many ways that children could get involved with the Legion while being students. During the last 15 years, Robison has organized the Veterans Day Program which she tries to make bigger and better each year. She finds a way to involve multiple organizations that represent veterans, Patriot Pen Winners, and family members of veterans. Whether Robison is encouraging her students to learn about the past through songs or helping her local Boy Scout Troop, she keeps the community involved by honoring those who have and still serve our great country.

Since its inception in 1919, The American Legion has been a key advocate for veterans' benefits, patriotic American values, instilling values in young people through numerous programs, and strong national defense with a focus on quality-of-life issues for those serving in today's armed forces.